

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce –
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Upton and Whitfield,

Our organizations represent a broad sector of the residential and commercial construction and real estate industry, including builders, developers, Realtors®, property managers, contractors and product manufacturers. We thank you for your continued support for the Blackburn/Schrader legislation, included in H.R. 8, that encourages meaningful energy savings for buildings by ensuring that new model building energy codes are achievable, technology-neutral and cost-effective. We strongly urge you to support this language as the House and Senate begin Conference negotiations.

Media reports suggest that the energy efficiency provisions in H.R. 8, including the Blackburn/Schrader language, could be removed from the bill as part of an agreement with the Senate. This legislation is critical. The next version of the energy code is currently being developed and we need to ensure DOE acts in an open and transparent manner and that the new code is cost-effective and attainable for American families and businesses. Failure to include the Blackburn/Schrader language in the final Conference Report will exacerbate the shortage of affordable housing, as well as increase compliance costs for commercial landlords and many of their tenants.

The Blackburn/Schrader legislation is not new – it has been part of H.R. 8 since it was reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee last September. A vote to strike this language was defeated in Committee by a bipartisan vote of 28-20. H.R. 8 was ultimately approved by the Committee with a bipartisan vote of 32-20 and passed the House floor with bipartisan support with a vote of 249-174. There is strong support for this language and we need your help to make sure it is included in the final conference agreement. Our coalition stands ready to help push this bill over the finish line and to President Obama's desk. We ask that you please stand with us and continue to support the Blackburn/Schrader legislation.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you and other Members of the Conference to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Gas Association

American Public Gas Association

American Wood Council

APA – the Engineered Wood Association

Building Owners and Managers (BOMA) International

Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association

International Council of Shopping Centers

Leading Builders of America

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association

National Apartment Association

National Association of Home Builders

National Association of Realtors®

National Electrical Contractors Association

National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association

National Multifamily Housing Council

The Real Estate Roundtable

Window and Door Manufacturers Association

Coalition for Fair Energy Codes – Member Companies include:

- Boise Cascade
- Coastal Forest Products
- Eagle Plywood Specialties
- Georgia-Pacific Wood Products
- Hardel Mutual Plywood Corporation
- Hood Industries
- Huber Engineered Woods
- LP
- Murphy Company
- Natron Wood Products
- Norbord
- Olympic Panel Products
- Pacific Wood Laminates
- Plum Creek
- Potlatch
- Rosboro
- Roseburg Forest Products
- RoyOMartin
- S.D.S. Lumber Company
- Savona Specialty Plywood Company
- Scotch Plywood Company
- Swanson Group Manufacturing
- Timber Products Company
- Tolko Industries
- Westlam Industries
- Weyerhaeuser

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources